

A WELL-DESERVED TRIBUTE TO
THE REVEREND HOWARD M.
HAYWOOD

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on November 23rd, the congregation of the Myrtle Baptist Church, joined by many of the citizens of Newton, and indeed of the greater Boston area, will pay a bittersweet tribute to the Reverend Howard Haywood, commemorating the exemplary service he has provided to that congregation—and to the community at large—for more than two decades.

Reverend Haywood took over as pastor of the Myrtle Baptist Church in 1985. His formal role ended in July of this year, and the many people that he served, comforted and inspired are gathering to honor him. At a time when questions of the appropriateness of the size of compensation have been an important topic in this House, I think it worthy of noting that Reverend Haywood took no compensation at all for the extraordinary work that he has done.

Under his leadership, the Myrtle Baptist Church has become a source of help for people from all generations and walks of life. In the terrible aftermath of Katrina, when the Federal Government failed so many people, under the Reverend Haywood's leadership the Myrtle Baptist Church did an extraordinary amount to provide the assistance that people needed. From this relatively small congregation, two truck loads of food, clothing and gifts were dispatched and noncongregate students from the surrounding colleges were so inspired by this that they joined the effort.

While Howard Haywood's works are truly impressive, the greatest gift he has given all of us is the example of a man of considerable talent dedicating that talent to bettering the lives of others and providing a wonderful example of religion and religious service at its best.

Madam Speaker, I am glad to hold out to the Nation the example of Howard Haywood, and I look forward to participating in the event in which I and many others will tell him how much we appreciate his work.

SPEAKER PELOSI RECEIVES THE KNIGHT'S CROSS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with our colleagues the remarks made by the Italian Ambassador, the Honorable Giovanni Castellaneta, as he awarded you with the Knight's Cross. The Knight's Cross is the supreme decoration of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy and, as the highest ranking Italian-American in our Nation's history, it is an honor which you richly deserve. I urge all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating you on the receipt of this high tribute from such an important ally and in thanking the Ambassador for recognizing the historic role you have played in the American story.

AMBASSADOR GIOVANNI CASTELLANETA'S
REMARKS VILLA FIRENZE, SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

"...il vivere libero (...) propone onori e premi mediante alcune oneste e determinate ragioni, e fuori di quelle non premia né onora alcuno". Those are the words of the great Italian thinker, Nicolò Machiavelli. Translation: "living free (...) offers honors and rewards for certain honest and specific reasons, and outside of these, honors and rewards none." For Machiavelli rewarding merit, and not noble birth or riches—is the basis for "living free." It is the very foundation of democracy, where the merits of individuals are affirmed unhindered and contributes to the progress of the Nation.

There are no doubts of the merits of the Honorable Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, garnered over the years of her public and political engagement. Years in which she emerged in the United States as a prominent political figure and a foremost representative of Italianity.

The roots of her political inclinations are clear. Speaker Pelosi was born to a family with a long history in political life. I recall seeing a picture of Nancy in the arms of her father, Thomas D'Alessandro, on the campaign trail that would lead him to the U.S. Congress representing the State of Maryland.

He handed down his passion for politics to his children: Thomas D'Alessandro III followed in his footsteps in Baltimore, serving also as Mayor from 1967 to 1971.

It was then to be Nancy's turn. With such a background, how could she not heed the call? Her father's bloodline and her Italian genes could lead nowhere else. This legacy was merged with the wholly Italian sentiment of building a fine family (her husband Paul, whom she met at Georgetown University, the five wonderful children, Nancy Corinne, Christine, Jacqueline, Paul and Alexandra) always supporting her decision to go into public service and embark on a career that would prove stellar. Let me mention two moments in that process:

(1) Her designation in the Fall of 2002 as House Minority Leader for the Democrats, the first woman in U.S. history to hold this post.

(2) Her current position as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives which, according to many, makes her the most powerful woman in the United States and perhaps in the world.

I think the history of the D'Alessandro-Pelosi family is especially meaningful, mainly because it exemplifies and underlines the great contribution that Italians in America have made to the political edifice of this great country.

It is a contribution that is part of the Italian gene: political beings "par excellence" from the birth of politics. The Romans took their lessons from the Greeks, transformed it into an art form, and passed it on genetically to the Italians of later generations. In the beginning I cited Machiavelli: Is it any wonder that the founder of modern political science was an Italian?

Once in America, Italians adapted their calling and penchant for politics to this country, one they helped build in the thousand assemblies and congresses of the towns, cities, and states of this great Nation. A vocation that generations of Italian-Americans have knowingly and naturally expressed also in Washington, in Congress, wherever politics is spelled with a capital P.

The Pelosi family is one example of how millions of Italian Americans have given their talent and their calling to help build its democratic conscience.

Mark Twain used to say that "history never repeats itself but it does rhyme a lot."

And history will certainly continue the rhyme with the D'Alessandro-Pelosi family. Nancy's father, Thomas, also received the distinction that I will be bestowing upon her this evening. For two members of the same family to be awarded the highest decoration of the Republic of Italy is rare indeed.

And the similarities do not stop there. The D'Alessandro lived on Albemarle Street in Baltimore. Tonight we find ourselves on Albemarle Street in Washington, so in a way we are reconnecting to Nancy Pelosi's childhood.

I would lastly remind of the profound meaning that the bestowal of this honor holds for my country. It is an expression of appreciation that Italy extends, tonight in the person of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, to all the Italian-Americans that continue to feel a strong bond with their country of origin and whose personal and professional lives are animated by the "Italian spirit" that sets us apart.

Now wherefore, on behalf of the President of the Republic and of all the people of Italy, I hereby induct Nancy Patricia D'Alessandro Pelosi into the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy (OMRI) with the degree of "Knight of the Grand Cross" that recognizes merits to the Nation in the sciences, letters, economics and public service and in activities with social, philanthropic and humanitarian purposes, as well as far-reaching and distinguished contributions while in public and military service.

HONORING JOE HARATANI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Joe Haratani for his humanitarian efforts and his service to this country. Mr. Haratani was acknowledged Wednesday, October 1, 2008 in his home town of Sonora, CA.

Joe Haratani was born in Florin, a rural farming community in northern California, to Japanese parents in October 1923. He was one of seven children and his father was a Methodist minister. In the fall of 1941 Mr. Haratani enrolled at Modesto Junior College. While attending school he worked as a house boy for a Caucasian family. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he was let go from his job. Within weeks, the U.S. Government restricted the movement of all Japanese and Japanese descendants, forbidding them to travel more than 5 miles away from home. On February 19, 1942, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized Executive Order 9066, Mr. Haratani, along with approximately 110,000 other people with Japanese ancestry on the West Coast, was forced into 1 of 10 internment camps across the country.

Mr. Haratani and his family were taken to the Merced Fairgrounds, known then as the Merced Assembly Center. The shelter consisted of a tar paper shack until September when they were moved by train to the Amache Relocation Center in southeast Colorado. The camp in Colorado was surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards. The internees were largely left alone to live their lives and fend for themselves. Many of the people had farming backgrounds, so they began to plant vegetables and trees for food and shade. Mr. Haratani found a job as dishwasher where he earned about \$12 dollars per month.